

*Now Is Christ Risen from the Dead*

# THE EUROPEAN HARVEST FIELD

To fear nothing but sin; to face death without a tremor, with faith in Christ, who tunneled the grave that I might walk into the larger and perfect life.

*—Memorial plaque in Fort Washington  
Presbyterian Church, New York City,  
for its first pastor, Daniel H. Martin,  
D. D.*

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MARCH-APRIL

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CATHERINE RUTH SMITH, Editor

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## *A Smell of Fire*

Smoke indicates that fire is making trouble. To save life, firemen risk personal injury. There is a kind of smoke at the present time causing some alarm, where Russia pretends to be a fire-extinguisher. "Come with us and we will do you good," says the deceiver. Dr. J. H. Hunter says: "Immediately Russia reveals her further invasion schemes, the small countries will get the first shock."

The Holy Spirit is at work in a quiet, yet deep manner. The true believers value our prayer-fellowship more than words can express. The Scriptures are valued as precious and priceless. The calls for Gospel literature reveal the encouraging sign that soul-winning is being undertaken by many who realize that "Now is the accepted time; now is the day of salvation." "He that is wise winneth souls." This is certainly God's way of "pulling them out of the fire." Satan is busy blinding all who sneer or cry out, "Time enough yet."

S. D. Gordon, of "Quiet Talks" fame, said: "The greatest of all work we can do is to pray. Prayer is not seeking blessings for ourselves. Real prayer is real business with God!" Is not this the hour for self-denial? We must positively make time to get alone with God, especially in intercession for European lands where the "smell of fire" (Satan's fiery darts of deception and delusion) is actively causing fear of what is coming on the earth.

If we believe what Dr. Arno C. Gaebelein said: "The Masterpiece of God is to be found in the first three chapters of the Ephesian Epistle," then let us get to prayer in dead earnest. The entire armour of God is given in Chapter 6. of that Epistle, and victory is certain.

One of our friends sent us a gift for Bibles for Fred Stettler. He had experienced an answer to prayer and gave this money as a thank-offering. "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?"

Important: Pray for 25,000 men, women and children in danger of the "Iron Curtain" so-called Freedom domination. My heart is deeply concerned about this matter.

Yours, praying for cheerful givers,

F. SPENCER JOHNSON.

Eldon House, Lansdowne, Croydon, England.

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## *Missionary Journeys*

To the glory of God I want to give my dear overseas friends herewith a short report of my missionary and Gospel activity of last year. Soon it will be a year since I returned from America, after having spent nearly a whole blessed year in that country. I am so thankful to my Lord that He gave me the possibility of making this trip. In connection with this journey I had many wonderful experiences of the grace of the Lord, which I remembered with great pleasure on different occasions, while preaching the Gospel in my own country last year.

Looking back to this ministry, I cannot but adore the Lord that He was again so merciful as to bring me into contact with souls who sought the way of salvation, and that He daily gave me the strength which I needed for this ministry. He is such a wonderful Lord, He makes use of the slightest effort to serve Him. In this way I recommenced my ministry in our country by bringing the Gospel message to many DP's living in the province of Hanover. Wherever I followed Gospel invitations, I received the most hearty welcome from those brethren and sisters who had invited me. The Lord filled our hearts with deep joy on seeing each other again. As I reported on my missionary work in the United States and Canada, our hearts were warmed with the sense of world-wide fellowship, the heavenly tie which cannot be torn asunder. At many opportunities I told our friends of the love of our dear overseas brethren and sisters towards their unknown needy friends in Germany. This was for the unbelievers a wonderful testimony of real love, which is ready to sacrifice for everyone who is in need.

At this moment I remember a Gospel meeting where, at the close, a Protestant clergyman joined in a brief testimony, standing side by side with a Jewish missionary worker who likewise wanted to bring a brief message of the Lord to the people. Pointing to a large Cross on the wall, the Protestant clergyman made the striking remark: "Beneath the Cross we are brethren."

A further experience of world-wide fellowship comes into my mind. At the large Baptist conference in Dortmund last year, a lady asked me: "Were you not at the World Baptist Congress in Cleveland last year?" When I answered in the affirmative, she told me: "I made your acquaintance at the home of my friends, where you lodged." I again remembered the wonderful days of blessing in Cleveland, which had left deepest impressions on my heart. How small is the world! But how great is the world-wide fellowship of all the saints here on earth!

In the autumn of last year the Lord led me first to the south of Germany, and later to the north. The seeing again of so many dear friends was most heartening for me. It was a special joy for me to go to see sick persons, and to encourage sad hearts by words of comfort from the best of all books, the Bible.

In December I made my last Gospel and missionary trip, and I spent this time in Belgium. Seldom have I experienced such a great blessing as during my stay among coal-miners, DP's and refugees in that country. The Lord gave me strength and grace to announce His message thirty-nine times during that stay. I preached the Word in small and large meetings, to tuberculosis patients in a large sanatorium, to believing Jews in Brussels, and so on. I likewise held drawing-room meetings at many places, which often lasted from nine o'clock in the morning until eleven o'clock at night. People were greatly interested in hearing and becoming acquainted with the Word of God.

They literally ran after me with their Bibles, and wanted to have a reply to all their Biblical questions. In Liège the Lord gave me the grace to baptize sixteen adult believers. I regret that the space is so small, for I could go on reporting the wonderful blessings which I experienced during that time. I pray to the Lord that He may give a rich fruit of the seed which I was entrusted to sow in His field.

I want to take this opportunity of expressing my heartiest thanks to all my dear overseas friends who also support us with tracts and literature. We pass these on to our friends, who distribute them where God gives them opportunity. After the Gospel-meetings we likewise have good use for these little "seed-grains of truth." There is, for instance, an eighty-three-year-old friend who writes me: "In spite of my great age, I still distribute tracts in several villages, and I am glad that the Lord gives me the strength and grace to serve Him in this way." Another friend writes: "I am so very thankful for all the good tracts which I have received from you. They are a great help in my mission. May the Lord give me the grace to continue this work a long time. Most people are grateful for receiving Christian literature."

And finally, a very hearty word of thanks to my dear friends for their wonderful material support. We shall never forget this help, which is so greatly appreciated by our needy brethren and sisters. Listen to what they write us: "The Lord has thought of me in a most wonderful way, and has helped me by sending a fine package. I needed the clothing and the shoes. The children were also very poorly clothed. Thus our joy is great, and we thank you a thousand times." "I can give you the good news that I have received a CARE-package. I am so infinitely thankful to God, and I deeply bow before Him. He will not forsake us in the future." "It was a special joy for us when the valuable package came to hand. It contained so many good things which we can use so well." "What a joy for us when the first package from the United States reached us! My husband was very ill at that time, and your gifts enabled him to gain strength. Later on, we received three more packages. May the Lord richly bless you and the dear donors for all this love."

St. James says in the last verse of the first chapter of his Epistle: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction. . . ." I know and am infinitely thankful to you that you have, in a certain way, also visited our fatherless and widows. The contents of your packages rejoiced and encouraged their hearts. Many a sorrow was put aside by your valuable help. The Lord has seen your efforts, and will surely reward your love.

The Lord has begun this wonderful work of serving the needy through gifts entrusted to us. His grace and love have swayed your hearts, so that our empty hands have been filled. What a royal privilege, that we may be instruments in the Hands of God! May our hearts have a fervent desire to serve the Lord further in this way. We then shall fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." In this time of need, the Lord has given us the most wonderful opportunity of loving one another. Every endeavor to soften the need is followed by a greater blessing. Let us therefore be abounding in the work of the Lord; our labor is never in vain in the Lord. May I reckon upon your kind help in the future too? The need is still so great. We do our utmost, but sometimes our resources are exhausted. We thank you for every help.

Yours in His service,

BERNHARD GOETZE.

*France*

My dear praying friends:—

“Ye shall know that the living God is among you.”

There is nothing more wonderful than to feel His manifested presence—to know that He doeth whatsoever He willeth, and nothing can stay His hand. During weeks of illness, which were weeks of praise and prayer, others came in to join us in intercession for all saints. Our weekly gatherings together are much blessed—all call them “Upper-Room Fellowship.”

We have finished 5000 labels for Dr. Cooper’s booklets, “The God of Israel,” all hand-written and followed by fervent prayer for fruit in Israel, and we trust all lovers of Israel will continue with us in prayer for this piece of work. In one of the large prisons of France we have a most interesting Jew, speaking some fourteen languages. We sent him a Hebrew and an English Bible, and he became a diligent student of the Word of God. His weekly letters are filled with the Word; he professes Christ, and he speaks with joy of the day when we shall meet. He seeks the will of God for his life.

A Jewish physician is coming often to see me. He passed through concentration camps, became crippled and hardened. He cannot forgive and forget; but he reads the suitable books that we give him. There is still another Jew, now almost blind, for whom I covet your prayers. We can read the Scripture and pray with him. He is one of the prominent people of Nice; he constructed the great Palace, which the Nazis later used as headquarters, and it was there that I was made prisoner. Just to sit with this gentleman and remember such days, and realize the leading of God, shows how people are brought together for the one purpose of finding Christ.

I wish that I could introduce you to the group that comes to us on Friday evening. There are Communists, who, after reading the conversion of one of theirs, became interested in the Bible and Gospel meetings. There are Orthodox people groping after light. One lady came to seek peace with God; the sudden death of King George was used to wake her up. One Jesuit student is also a seeker; he was so upset at things he saw in the college. My dentist, my doctor, my advocate, with their wives, are coming, and seemingly interested. Three Danish girls, sisters, who have been with me, are born again and ready to serve the living God. Dr. Smith sent some extra Fellowship money for Christmas, and we were led to use this for the most suffering of our prisoners—those condemned to death, the isolated, lonely ones for whom nothing had been prepared. We made many, many cakes, conserves of fruit, as good as we could get, and if ever I have had Christmas joy, it was when their letters came: they so clearly understood the love of God in this, and several turned to God with all their heart.

Many, many thanks to all who have helped us with gifts, letters, and very much to all of you who pray for abiding fruit. Loving greetings in His Name.

Your fellow-worker,

TORDIS CHRISTOFFERSEN.

(Surely your hearts have been stirred like ours as you have read how our sister has faithfully and lovingly continued her mission in spite of physical pain and weakness. Other letters speak of her still not being entirely well. Remember before the Lord this self-sacrificing ministry. Our sister needs your prayers and help. For many years we have been proud to call her our own. She is worthy.)

## *Switzerland*

Very dear friends in Christ:—

As the year draws to a close, and some of you have already sent your Christmas cards and letters, we are reminded that we owe you an annual letter of thanks and information. Without our friends who have prayed for us and encouraged us, we do not see how we could have kept up the work. Your fellowship has been a constant source of inspiration and joy. What we have to say in the way of describing blessings and accomplishments, in the following lines, is to be solely understood in the light of His good hands upon us, and the faithful and patient endeavor on your part. As we leaf through our records and tabulate some of the figures, we think of Psalm 31.19, "How great is Thy goodness!" We know your love and gifts continued in spite of the fact that hundreds of appeals have reached your ear and your desk, and tend to make one numb and insensitive, though they should awaken us.

As in other years, our activities can be divided into three distinct channels of service. The first, of course, is the oral ministry of the Gospel. As a continuation of the young people's Bible course every spring, we had for the first time, this year, a Bible course for the former students. As far as visible fruits are concerned, this constitutes about the most hopeful work of the whole year. We have now a considerable group of young men and women, of whom we have every reason to believe that in the future they will be the real pillars of the work. A number of them are studying and preparing for the mission fields. During the summer Gospel tent campaigns I was engaged in five series of meetings. Another series of Gospel meetings were held indoors, in Gospel halls. Nine towns and villages I have regularly visited once a month. Thirty-one towns and villages were visited, and I dealt with many men and women there. Many need our constant attention, for they need to be prayed out and into the enjoyment of full salvation. As in other years, I was able to join a number of young people in wedlock. A goodly number could be baptized into the death of Christ, and testify of His all-sufficiency.

The second branch of work that calls for strenuous physical effort is still the refugee work. In spite of great inundations, destruction of whole valleys through the exceptional snowfalls, followed by mighty avalanches that destroyed lives and property (with the resultant country-wide campaigns for food, clothing, money, etc.), we were able to keep up the good work. Between thirteen and fourteen thousand pounds of clothing, shoes, food and medicine have been forwarded to the needy refugees. Thousands of letters must be read, handled or declined. All incoming goods must be sorted, acknowledged, packed and re-shipped. This in the face of a country that has less than five million population, large areas of unproductive mountains, and poor mountaineer inhabitants. All these gifts, with few exceptions, were gathered by the Swiss Christian people. This is a marvel before our eyes, and constantly causes us to thank the Lord for it all. "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth to the Lord: and that which he hath given will He pay him again" (Proverbs 19.17).

Last but not least, I should like to call your constant and prayerful attention to our Christian literature testimony. Probably the greatest responsibility a Christian feels is the fact of the vast masses about him who do not know the Lord Jesus Christ nor His Gospel. Various means are employed to get them into a living contact with the Word of God. For some twenty-six years we have been trying to reach them with the printed Gospel message. For this purpose we maintain a sort of Christian clearing-house for

evangelistic Gospel literature. If there are anywhere stocks of Gospel literature unused or idle, we try to buy them or get them donated to us, and we re-ship them to hundreds of reliable Gospel workers who are greatly in need of them. Hundreds of men and women collect them all over the country, and we sort and redistribute them again. Tens of thousands of loose Gospel calendars are being stitched here and placed in prisons and institutions as presentable small devotional booklets. Last year we were enabled to send out some 24,000 pounds of Christian literature. Some eighty-two publications were printed and paid for with your help and gifts. About 831,150 copies left our packing-room, like leaves from the tree of life, intended for the healing of the nations. The maintenance of this work cost \$5529.00, and the postage and freight another \$1500.00. We get daily letters and testimonies to the fact that souls are being saved through this ministry, men and women restored, and thousands write of the inspiration and comfort they have received.

About seven hundred voluntary helpers in many countries depend on our regular supply. We do not solicit any letters or applications. They all come in spontaneously through recommendation, personal acquaintances and contact. Literature from here goes to about one hundred prisons, hospitals, old people's homes, missions, refugee camps, barracks, Bible schools, and reading rooms. We have institutions on our list which have up to 10,000 inmates, invalids, cripples, epileptics, etc. We can never supply enough. The prisons in Germany alone need one-quarter million copies. Outstretched hands grasp gladly for the message that alone is able to scare away the evil thoughts and the long months of boredom. As a result, Bible classes and prayer circles have been formed, of those who have been saved within the prisons. There is no place where the Christian message is more appreciated, or read with greater eagerness. Through some special and designated gifts of friends we have been able to supply some 500 Bibles. Some 3000 Italian New Testaments could be sent to Southern Italy. An edition of Gospel tracts could be paid for in France. Shall we be able to keep up this far-reaching testimony the coming year? Thank you who have strengthened our hands and helped to replenish our deserted stock-room.

While some years ago we had a special need of excellent manuscripts for Gospel tracts, we may let you know that the Lord has heard your and our prayers in this regard. The Lord has given us a number of first-class writers who provide us with the best of manuscripts for Gospel tracts. We need weekly two new ones. At the present moment we have so many manuscripts on hand that we can hardly keep step with having them printed at once, though they are much in demand and badly needed.

To make this work possible, we need on this side a harmonious teamwork. Thus Mrs. Stettler and a Christian widow take care of the packing-room. Mary, a faithful Christian girl who was recently baptized, takes care of the household duties. She has been with us for nearly three years. Ruth is our bookkeeper, and I myself attend to the literature stock-room. The boys and Tabea do some of the trucking business and other all-around work outside their school hours.

Now and then letters come in asking about the well-being of our Hanna. To all the friends who have prayed for her during her stay at the tuberculosis sanatorium we want to pass on the happy news that she was dismissed some seven months ago as healed from her ailment. In the meanwhile she has been working in a household. This coming spring she is to pass the examination for good housekeeping (D.V.). Thank you one and all who have remembered her. God heard and answered prayer.

This Christmas-time our oldest daughter, Ruth, has in mind to become engaged to a Christian young man. Since last summer she has been taking care of an office of the watch-making business. Christa is in a household in England, to learn the English language. She intends to come home by next spring, and has in mind to become a nurse. The three younger ones, Fritz, John and Tabea, still go to school. Of late we have had considerable sickness. My mother (stepmother) was sick unto death, paralyzed by a stroke. The doctor gave her only two or three days to live. But it is as someone said: "It is hard to diagnose a Christian case." God has since spared her again several months, and she got better, though she is far from well. Mary, our housemaid, was for a time at the hospital, having her appendix removed. Just at this writing, little John is there for the same purpose.

In the way of our special prayer-requests, we might mention: (1) That our strength be renewed from day to day. (2) That sufficient Gospel literature might be provided. (3) For the thousands who look to us for help, spiritual and material. (4) For the Eastern European countries, Christians who seldom or never dare write any more. Many leading Christians have disappeared. (5) For the Christian workers, tracts and readers. "The little one shall become a thousand, and the small one a strong nation" (Isaiah 60.22).

Now we should like to thank most warmly everyone who has prayed for us and the work here. Our whole family and many appreciative Christian workers send you best wishes and greetings in Christ. The office of the American-European Fellowship will gladly forward any gift designated for this work.

Yours in His precious Name,  
FRED and MARTHA STETTLER.

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## *Argentina*

Dear Sister in the Lord, Ekaterina Normanovna:—

I must apologize to you for not writing you sooner about the Lord's work here. I have a great deal of labor and anxiety here at home, and from time to time I have to make trips to places both far and near. The Lord has permitted me twice in recent times to visit our center in Buenos Aires and its environs, and at present I am making ready for a third trip, to stay there for some time. The latter part of February they have two annual conferences, regional and union. I ask your prayers, that the Lord may bless all our work and our decisions about the work, also the approaching meetings in the capital and in the suburban churches.

The holidays of Christmas and New Year I passed at home in the province of Mendoza. As always, these holidays present us with a great opportunity for the work of God. We had a great many meetings of a general character, of edification and invitation, with programs for children and young people. We had a Christmas-tree for the children, with presents. The young people joyfully took part in the program, singing, playing, reciting poems, telling stories, and testifying. All the meetings were well-attended and joyful. The great prayer-hall in the colony of Scandinavia was filled with people at all these meetings.

In the town of Bowen we are having regular meetings twice a week, and they also have a fine Sunday-School. From time to time we visit also the

distant colonies, organizing meetings there. The Sunday before last we visited a distant Slavonic colony, San Pedro. We started thither in a big bus, very early in the morning. Our choir and a good many of our young people went with us. Since there are some members of our main church there, who cannot always come to the center, we decided to have a meeting there and celebrate the Lord's Supper, so as to give those elderly people a chance to participate, who cannot attend the meetings because of physical weakness.

When we arrived there, and stopped at the house of a certain brother, the people gradually began to assemble, and soon a large crowd had gathered, of both young and old people. We had a meeting outdoors under the shade of vines and trees, where the burning rays of the sun did not disturb us. There was much singing and testimony, and then we observed the Lord's Supper. Everything went off well and successfully, and we believe that the work done there will not be without fruit. After the meeting we had a number of delightful private talks, and much joy in the Lord. Before our departure, many thanked us for the visit, and urged us to return soon. We hurried back, in order to take part in the evening meeting at our center. May the Lord bless all that was done for His glory.

(Another letter.) A few days ago we received your letter with the check for the current month. We thank you heartily. Also, it was only a short time ago that we received your Christmas present. It had been held up at the customs office in the provincial capital of Mendoza. We had to pay some duty and engage in correspondence with them. Knowing how busy you are, dear sister, and yet you find time to remember us, we cannot find words to express to you our hearty gratitude for your love and thoughtfulness. May the Lord reward you abundantly in every way.

We received your magazine for November-December, and with special interest we read your article describing your house and neighbors, and the whole work of the Fellowship which you carry. May the Lord look upon all this, and reward you abundantly for such labor for His glory, and for the help and salvation of others in various places. "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25.40).

We also read with great interest of your decision to give a tenth to the work of God. Just now, as we see from the magazines, many are writing about this subject. I also am trying to send material on this theme of tithing to our Russian religious magazines, and to speak about it in our churches, and I personally am trying to put it into effect. The Lord wonderfully recompenses, and gives joy, according to His unchangeable promise.

We are sorry to hear that Dr. Dowkontt is ill. May the Lord grant him recovery, renewal of his powers, and further usefulness for His glory! We are praying for them both, for him and his wife. We also continually bring before the Lord in prayer all the workers of the Fellowship, and earnestly thank Him that He has permitted us to have such close brotherly union and coöperation in the course of so many years. It is so pleasant to remember how the Lord wonderfully arranged our meeting and acquaintance with your deceased parents and with you, and with other friends, and how He has cared for us all up to the present time. Glory to Him!

On the 20th of this month, D. V., I shall journey to our center and its environs. Several annual conferences will be held there, both regional, and for the whole Union of Slavonic Churches of South America, and also meetings in various places. May the Lord bless these important matters. We remain,

Yours in the love of Christ,

JOHN and MARY KOVALCHUK.

## Portugal

I always was an enthusiast for books and for reading, from my childhood, and since a certain age, books were the best birthday presents that could be given to me. Books, of course, were the good helpers in my education during all the many years of school and high school, and I can assure you that I always tried to be a good student.

There was a day when I became acquainted with the best Book of all, the Bible, where I could hear the voice of my blessed Lord and Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, whom I accepted, and by whom I have been saved. And I experienced then also the truth of Psalm 119.9: "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to Thy Word." I have read and studied my Bible so many times, and continue to do so, in the thirty-one years of my Christian life, and now, approaching fifty years of age, I still feel the need of knowing more and more the Old Book, and of scattering His Message everywhere.

Preaching the glad tidings of salvation, and teaching the Word, is my call and my responsibility for souls, and I am constantly doing this, either at our own local Church, or among the others where I am allowed to minister. But, as I have learned so much through the reading of Christian newspapers, tracts and books, I am, of course, an enthusiast for the literature work. Only in recent years, from some notes that I had gathered, can I ascertain that I have offered and distributed more than a thousand edifying books, being commentaries, dictionaries, Scofield Reference Bibles, etc., in English, French, Spanish, German, Portuguese, and other languages, to Christian seminary students and even to Portuguese pastors who were unable to buy such books. These have been sent me, for this work, by several foreign believers. It is always advisable, by the way, to send such books in small parcels, under four pounds weight, marked "Book-Post," and never by parcel-post, so that they will not have to go through the customs, with unnecessary customs duties to pay. Besides that, I have distributed scores of thousands of Gospels, New Testaments, Bibles and Christian periodicals (as our dear "Correio Evangelico," for instance), and tracts, issued by myself, as well as by other friends.

The distribution of thousands of copies of our quarterly Gospel paper, "Correio Evangelico," going to many corners of Portugal, to the islands of the Atlantic (the Azores and Madeira), to the Portuguese African colonies, and even to distant Brazil (a Portuguese-speaking country), brings to me many requests for more literature, as we print an offer for such on the fourth page of the paper. The other day it was, for instance, a father who requested such literature, because he "wanted to teach his children in the holy things of the Lord," and many persons ask us not to forget them when issuing a further number of the paper which they so much appreciate. As an answer to the last number, I have received and am still receiving many requests for New Testaments, from several parts of the country, and I would like to be supplied always with enough copies to send out.

There is a great opportunity and a challenge to us, for the literature-distribution in Portugal, while the doors are wide open for it. And there is a great need that funds may be immediately provided to us, not only for the maintenance of this constant scattering of Christian literature, but specially to increase this needed work. Such funds could even be applied in a way to secure some collaborator, and besides, the great needs for postal expenses are constantly increasing, and must be met, if we want to do what is so needed in this great work.

I could report many cases of people who have been blessed through the

literature. I only want to pass on to my readers the following: While preaching the Lord's Word, the other day, at the Presbyterian Church of Ajuda, to help in their special series of services to commemorate the rebuilding of their sanctuary, I was reminded again of that beautiful verse, Ecclesiastes 11.1, which has inspired me more than once, and which I have also formerly experienced in similar circumstances: "Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days." As I was greeting everyone at the door, after the service, a young lady came and told me that she had been led to the Lord when, a year ago, she read in the chief secular newspaper of our town my periodical announcement offering a Gospel of Saint Luke to anyone applying to me. This she did, and she afterwards came in touch with some Christians who brought her to that Church. Was it not wonderful? Praise the Lord!

It was also interesting to receive a phone-call from a Roman Catholic lady who wanted to thank me for the Scriptures and Christian literature that I regularly send to her, and of which she wanted more copies to offer to some of her Roman Catholic lady-friends! This is most encouraging.

I also was very glad of my talk one day with a retired Portuguese War-Navy officer, who wanted more of my special literature to offer to educated people. He needed this to pass on to some of his former colleagues and other well-educated friends. Of course, I had much pleasure to forward immediately a parcel of such literature to him, upon my arrival at home.

All this work of the scattering of literature brings me much postal expense and work, but in the latter I am very thankful for the hearty collaboration of my small group of some ten boys and girls, among the older pupils in my Sunday-School, who are always ready to come to the evening services and help me in the despatch of such literature. Please pray for them, as also for me in all this work, which is a means of reaching so many people throughout our needy and beloved country of Portugal, where the Lord's servants fight through so many material difficulties and hindrances of different kinds.

Very sincerely yours in our soon-coming Lord and Saviour,

GUIDO WALDEMAR OLIVEIRA.

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## *Germany*

Dear Prayer-helpers:—

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."—Matthew 11.28.

One of the causes of trouble in the world today is the claiming of all benefits, without readiness to fulfill the conditions. Many people want to go to Heaven, but would not do His will on earth, as it is in Heaven. They repeat mechanically, "Give us our daily bread," but the cigarette comes first. They would enjoy the privileges of land and homes built up on the Gospel basis, but would undermine that very foundation. Those that had the control of the immigration here, considered first the brain and brawn of the prospective immigrants, but their spiritual condition was of little or no consequence. Rather, a discrimination was made against those who would help the immigrants to a real new life. It is one of the problems we have to face. Just now there is a little transition period, because of the closing of the "I.R.O." organization, and we will have to see what the successor organization will be like. In the meantime we continue to work under the problems as we find them. Please pray for the Lord's guidance as to new meeting-places.

Naturally, the persons concerned also determine the approach and treatment accorded to them. Lately we are dealing with a part of the group of refugees that crossed to the Western Zone on the "Freedom train." It is known that some of these people were promptly shipped across the ocean, with considerable ceremony and demonstration about it. But why did part of them have to stay behind, with one of the chief organizers? He claims that the consular officer took them systematically: two rejected, two accepted, and so on. He happened to be one of the first, and was rejected, as well as his family. Since then, they have tried other possibilities, and now are scheduled for England, whence they hope to reach Canada—maybe, some day!

As you will have read reports on the "Freedom train," I will mention only a few things, not so generally known. Of the number of those who chose to return to Czechoslovakia, after that involuntary crossing of the border, there was a girl, who returned merely to fetch some of her friends, and came back with them later. Among them was the prospective bride of one of the original runners of the Freedom train, and they had their civil marriage before Christmas. The first contact we had with that group was in the latter part of November, while handing out tracts in one of the camps. Then we did not know who they were, and on our invitation a few came to the Sunday Gospel meeting. Since they left immediately thereafter for Munich, we did not see them for the next four weeks, till again we passed along with tracts.

Then we got to know more about their history, and followed them as they were shifted from camp to camp. Just before the last shift, we found out about the "newlyweds" through a question, if I could perform a wedding ceremony. As the civil marriage is valid, it would be merely a matter of blessing the marriage, and no definite arrangement was made. Therefore you can imagine our surprise, on returning the visit three days later, to be told that they had expected us to perform the ceremony, but were shifted again that morning. They had shifted things a bit to order, in a room with sixteen beds in two rows, and were waiting for us. Thus we missed one of the unique chances in the camp.

Eleven of that group had been shifted that day to a camp forty-two miles distant. Arriving at their destination at night, they had to hunt for the camp in the dark, outside of the town, near the flying field and barracks of a United States Army sub-post. As they may have to wait from two to six months before being allowed to go to England, they would like to get some kind of job with the Americans, to help them in their existence. However, knowing little German and hardly any English, it is doubtful if they will be accepted. The one in charge of hiring the foreign help is partial to people of his own nationality. Such work might include the cleaning of the yard, lavatories, kitchen, store-rooms, and coal-handling. And the leader and organizer of the Freedom train is a doctor of medicine, former supervising physician of the district of Ash in Czechoslovakia. Necessity knows no respect of persons—he would be glad to do anything for a bigger piece of bread for his family.

Unfortunately the passion for smoking does not stop at misery, as some of them told me, on discussing the small allowance for the refugees, that the money for cigarettes must be first. As most of them call themselves "Evangelicals," they ought to know Isaiah 55.2, "Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread?" Though they are as fanatical about their religion as any Roman Catholic, salvation is unknown to them. The doctor said that it was in Ludwigsburg, in our meetings, that he began to see a difference, and it appealed to him. At our first visit there, they were singing our Gospel songs enthusiastically, but during the message some had to step out for a smoke! The doctor's wife, a most "devout" Evangelical, stayed through the

message, but we saw her smoking at other times. We can only pray that further contacts, while they stay in the Western Zone, may bring them more light.

In contrast to the "I.R.O." camps, the Germans do not cook for the refugees, so the doctor's wife acts as cook and manager for the group. The first week, before the fuel supply was arranged for, they had to steal from the refuse-heap, where the Americans dump their trash. There are plenty of scraps of wood, and rubber tire-casings, which make excellent fuel. But—one man pays the city a lump sum annually for the privilege of utilizing the dump, and therefore watches the pile carefully, lest others carry away what he might turn into money. The proximity of the refugee camp stirs him to watchfulness, as there are some who do not care for regular work, just for easy money, not caring how they get it. We just heard of a case where, during the clean-up of the "I.R.O." stockrooms, some things were stolen. That would be an ordinary occurrence, but for the fact that a certain young man was also implicated. For some time we had hoped for his conversion, till last fall he stopped coming, as he would not have his personal liberty curtailed. I had pointed him to Christ denying Himself to die on the Cross, to redeem the slaves of sin. Now this fellow has curtailed his liberty, but not for Christ's sake. Once we hoped, if he would really turn to the Lord, that we might help him and his young bride to immigrate. Now that is definitely out. May he recall in prison what he has been hearing in our meetings, which he used to attend regularly.

Coming back to that part of the Freedom train group, which was not transferred so far from here: there is a young Catholic couple, with two little girls of three and five years, whom the so-called "Evangelicals" did not regard as worth asking for a Gospel talk. Truly said the Lord, "If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!" We had to visit that family separately, and it proved to be the best, as we had no interference from the Evangelicals, who love to show up their supposedly superior knowledge. That family was only once in a regular meeting, then a Bible class in their temporary place; then last Sunday in the camp to which they have been transferred, and again last Wednesday a Bible hour in their room, at the conclusion of which both knelt down with me, and yielded their lives to the Lord. The man thanked me heartily for bringing salvation to him. Thus the last shall be first. We shall watch and help them to grow in grace while the self-exalted Evangelicals will stand aloof in darkness. Please pray that the Holy Spirit may also convict them of their sins, before they leave the sphere of our influence for unknown conditions in England.

I have to conclude my visit with you by answering a recent query, which may interest others also. It shows how our remarks may be overlooked, for we were asked whether we live in the camps, or outside. As we do not belong among the refugees, we have no lawful claim on space in the camps, though we still spend a night or more there, occasionally; especially in the more remote camps, so that we may utilize the time more effectively. Some camp leaders are friendly and do not object to our staying, so long as it does not cause expense. We have even been allowed the use of the "sick bay," usually kept in reserve, on condition that we move out immediately, if need arises. We have also slept in the same quarters with the refugees, none of which were as lowly as the stable in Bethlehem. We use our own food, or even treat those whom we are with, though mostly we live like gypsies and eat while driving, to save time. Praise the Lord for His keeping us for this service. Occasionally we wish for a larger car, to be able to sleep in it also; since we

take our folding organ along, there is no room to spare. But a larger car would take more gas, and that is expensive, as also the compulsory insurance and taxes. Thank you for upholding us in prayer, that we may be used of Him, till He come.

Yours by Grace,  
CHARLES and EDNA LUKESH.

## *The Letter-Bag*

I am sending you twenty dollars for your work and two dollars for my magazine. Thank you so much for sending it. My husband has not worked now for over three years, on account of his heart, so that puts us on the social security benefit. But this is a little money I had given me. I leave it to you to use where you see the need is the greatest. And oh, that the dear Lord would multiply it as He did the loaves and fishes of long ago! I know you are very busy, Dr. Smith, but will you sometimes remember our two children before the Lord, that He may soon save them. With grateful thanks. . . .

As the first gift of the year should go for Jewish work, I am enclosing a gift for them: I know you have such workers. I always enjoy reading the *HARVEST FIELD* and learning about their contacts. May the dear Lord bless you in your work for Him and His own people, is my prayer. I am nearly eighty-four years old, but the work of reaching the lost is very dear to my heart. Yours in the Loving One. . . .

(From an Army Post Office address overseas.) I pray that this New Year will bring many, many gifts of love to the Fellowship, that no part of the work will be neglected through the selfishness or the thoughtlessness of those of us who have such abundance. I am so grateful for the bounty the Lord gives us each day. We had a great time over the Christmas season, at Orphanages and Old Folks' Homes. One small nursery, where the children of the very poorest class are sheltered while the parents pick up rags and old paper, has decided that since the Americans have shared their food and clothes, they can do something too. They collected a small amount, truly a mite, and asked that it be sent to the children in Korea. They have heard that there is a need there. And all the people who heard that had a few tears in their hearts, and joy too, as the seed is bearing fruit in the most unlikely places. Only the dear Lord could produce results of this kind. I do hope you have caught up on the mountain of work that you had facing you earlier in the season. We don't forget you. . . .

This is an outstanding morning, bright sunshine, cold, crisp winter breezes, for it is still January. It is a day when I should be walking in an open woodland, and mostly at high noon. There are many types of woodland and each has its appeal. I love to walk among oaks and hickories, ash and maples, birch and sassafras, tightly-curved brown fern fiddle-heads, and half-hidden brown and faded leaves of arbutus in the soft and carpety moss. It is a matter of only a few months until leaf-shadows will again deepen the woodlands. Each day, as dawn-light speeds from the east coast to the heartland, the robins' chorus is heartily enjoying the sun and warming breezes somewhere. They will soon be coming back to us to cheer us in our homeland too. I love to stand against a tree and enjoy the peaceful quietness of the woods, for while there it will banish tensions and cares of this world, and draw you closer to the heart of God. As I walk farther along I find ground-pine and cedar scattered over the pages of the woodland book, entitled "Spring" even now. Patches of anemone, so frail, tremble and quiver on slender stems in my

## AMERICAN-EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP RECEIPTS, February and March, 1952

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imagination. Tiny little rootlets in the cold unlovely ground will be the lovely sunny-hearted daisies for Children's Day. I enjoy watching, listening and feeling, and in that way know that the year is already climbing toward the early Spring turnstile. . . .

So glad for your good Christmas greeting with a *real* tone in it—as Christians love to send; also for the two copies of THE EUROPEAN HARVEST FIELD that gave so much information about your living quarters, yourself and your part in this work, the outreaches and the blessings, then and now and in the future. How good God is! Praise Him for taking me *nearly* through a fiery trial, and verifying again His precious promises to me. I Corinthians 10.13, and instead of reading “temptation” (unless the temptation would be to harbor bitter or unkind feelings) you would put into it “fiery trial,” that burned deeply and long—then the last part of the sentence is glorious—“make a way to escape . . . able to bear it.” It's all true—and He worked a way to escape.

(Again we invite our readers to write to us freely on any subjects they may wish. The letters quoted above have covered international relationships, the beauties of the countryside, the problems of personal suffering, as well as various matters of interest to the Fellowship. Please continue to share with us your inmost thoughts, as the Lord may guide.)